

**Claim 1** (currently amended) A process for producing aliphatic [C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>.] alcohols of 3 to 10 carbon atoms from high boilers, ~~wherein~~ comprising adjusting the high boilers are brought to a neutralization number of up to 2 mg of KOH/g by means addition of an alkali metal compound and ~~are treated~~ treating the resulting mixture at a temperature of ~~from~~ 165 to 185°C and a pressure of ~~from~~ 80 to 150 hPa in a distillation column and the overhead product taken off is subsequently hydrogenated.

**Claim 2** (currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the neutralization number is brought to a value in the range from 2 to 5 mg of KOH/g by addition of an alkali metal compound.

**Claim 3** (currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in claim 1 or 2~~ of claim 1 wherein the temperature is ~~from~~ 170 to 180°C.

**Claim 4** ( currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3,~~ of claim 1 wherein an aqueous solution of the alkali metal compound is used.

**Claim 5** (currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4,~~ of claim 1 wherein the alkali metal compound is an alkali metal hydroxide.

**Claim 6** (currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 5, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide.

**Claim 7** (currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6~~, of claim 1 wherein the aliphatic [C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-] alcohol is 2-ethylhexanol.

**Claim 8** (currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7~~, of claim 1 wherein the alkali metal compound is added to the feed to the distillation column.